



BRAVING THE ELEMENTS... Westfield Troop No. 77 from St. Paul's Episcopal Church made a great showing at the annual Boy Scout Klondike Derby held January 25 in the Watchung Reservation placing second and third place in the scout class.



FUN GROUP... Brunner School Cubs from Scotch Plains visit the Leader/Times newspaper office last Thursday because their mothers made them do it (to learn about community communications).



WHITEOUT... Mindowaskin Pond in Westfield is picturesque on Monday after a major winter storm dropped approximately six inches of snow.

PSE&G Prepares For Coming Winter Storms

NEWARK — Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) is preparing for more wintry weather that is expected to bring a mix of snow, sleet and ice through Thursday morning, according to current weather forecasts.

PSE&G has all available personnel on hand to deal with any weather-related outages due to the heavy snowfall and is taking similar precautions for when another weather system is expected to affect our service territory.

These steps include ensuring that all available personnel are ready to respond; Arranging for contractors, including tree crews, to assist the utility's own skilled workforce; Ensuring that additional supplies, such as poles, transformers and other pole-top equipment, are on hand; Fueling all vehicles; Testing generators at utility locations; Coordinating with county and municipal emergency management personnel to inform them of outages and expedite restoration efforts.

Accumulation of ice and heavy snow may weigh down power lines and as a result cause power lines to come down. Downed wires may appear dead but should always be considered "live."

Stay away from all downed lines. Do not approach or drive over a downed line and do not touch anything that it might be in contact with. Parents are urged to check for downed wires in areas where their children might play and to remind the children to stay far away from any wires. If a wire falls on a vehicle, passengers should stay in the vehicle until help arrives. To report a

downed wire, call 1-800-436-PSEG and tell PSE&G the nearest cross street.

If you lose power, first check your neighborhood. If you are the only one without power, check your fuse box for tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses. If that is not the problem, look outside at the wire between your house and the utility pole. If it is down, report it immediately to PSE&G.

To report downed wires or power outages, customers should call PSE&G's Customer Service line at 1-800-436-PSEG. PSE&G uses an automated system to handle customer calls as efficiently as possible.

Customers with a handheld device, or who are at an alternate location with power, can also report power outages and view the status of their outage by logging into My Account on pseg.com. General outage activity throughout a service territory is available online at www.pseg.com/outagecenter and updates are posted on pseg.com during severe weather.

It is wise to have an emergency kit on hand year round. Here are some things to include: Battery powered radio; Corded telephone. (Cordless phones will not work if the power is out); Flashlights and extra fresh batteries; A first-aid kit; Bottled water and an adequate supply of non-perishable food; A non-electric can opener; Matches and candles with holders; Extra blankets and sleeping bags; A list of emergency phone numbers, including PSE&G's Customer Service line: 1-800-436-PSEG. Call this number to report power outages or downed wires.



HEAVY COVERAGE... Heavy snow blankets a tree across from the Westfield Fire Department on Monday after the area takes another hit from Mother Nature.

Westfield Police

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ation of these plans and the use of our officers," Chief Wayman said. "Our department has to be trained in emergency preparedness."

"The ability to work with Hoboken at the Super Bowl was just another unique opportunity and probably the opportunity of a lifetime — because I don't think we will ever have another Super Bowl here — to take part in the formation of all the tactical and operational plans, but not only with the City of Hoboken, but to also work with all the other municipal, county, state and federal agencies that took part in the overall security plan and develop a relationship with all these other agencies," he said.

Among the agencies participating was the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and NJ Transit.

Chief Wayman said man-made disasters are "increasing at really epidemic proportions, noting that there have been eight school and/or college shootings nationwide in the last two weeks. "You don't want it to happen here, but we have to be prepared for all possible emergencies in our town," he said.

The chief said the WPD counts on Westfield residents to be the department's "eyes and ears" in their local neighborhoods and to not be afraid to call 9-1-1 when they see something that does not seem right.

Speaking on local crime, Chief Wayman said Westfield is attractive for criminals "because of the profits they can gain here." He said Westfield has more crimes against property, such as thefts, home burglaries, motor vehicle break-ins and stolen bicycles than it does violent crimes against persons, although a strong-arm robbery against a Westfield juvenile recently occurred.

He said North and South Avenues both link Westfield to Plainfield to the west and Elizabeth to the east, enabling criminals to access the town via Route 22. He said these roadways offer criminals an "easy

escape" out of Westfield. NJ Transit trains as well as the NJ Transit 59 bus, which runs from Plainfield to Elizabeth, stops in Westfield.

"We are aware of the many entry points and the ingress and egress points of Westfield, so we do as best we can to monitor these points to deter [criminals]," he said, noting that Westfield shares information statewide with law enforcement.

He said Westfield police make motor vehicle stops and are out looking to prevent crimes, which creates an "omnipresence." Police also respond to all medical calls, people locked out of their homes or cars as well as resident service calls. The department responded to 48,000 calls in 2013.

SP Council

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Hernandez on Tuesday listed a number of upgrades and other changes that have been made, including turning the former civil defense room in the municipal building's basement into a new emergency operations center that can be used by police and other township officials. Several generators have been purchased to be used in the event of power outages and a new radio system will replace a 40-year-old system.

A new mobile command post, housed in an RV-type trailer, will allow police and emergency personnel to be on the scene in the event of an emergency. The trailer was secured — free of charge — from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was giving away excess inventory in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The trailers had been secured by New Orleans to house displaced families at that time. Sgt. Hernandez also pointed to the enhanced means of communicating with residents during an emergency, including Facebook, the Code Red alert system and the new radio station.

Fanwood Council

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order to prioritize projects.

Councilman Kevin Boris described the key projects for which the recreation department would be requesting capital funds. He said the recreation commission would ask for capital to repair the LaGrande tennis courts.

The commission has furthermore applied for a grant to address problems at the Forest Road Park tennis courts, which are facing drainage issues that cannot be fixed without destroying the existing courts. If a grant to re-imagine the Forest Road Park tennis courts is approved, the recreation department will seek matching funds from the council.

The recreation commission plans to approach the council with a proposed designer for the LaGrande Skateboard Park by the council's next meeting date. The commission has set a target opening date of August 14, 2014 for the skate park.

Council members also discussed logistics involved in the recent spate of snowstorms the borough has experienced. The borough's engineer, Peter Bodnar, reported that road repairs are still stalled due to in-

clement weather. Councilman Tom Kranz mentioned the strain the unusual amount of storms has placed on the borough's eight-person snow removal team. "I know winter's only half over, but our DPW guys are busting their rear ends out there, just non-stop," he said. Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern agreed, pointing out that even keeping up with supplies is a challenge. "We're low on salt," she said, "everybody is."

Mayor Colleen Mahr said the borough has enough salt to cover its needs for the next 24 hours and has two orders of replacement salt en route. Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell noted that additional snow is also said to be en route for the upcoming weekend. Although predictions vary as to the severity of the weekend storms, Police Chief Richard Trigo has cancelled all staff requests for time off this weekend so that a full complement of officers will be available. "We're staying on top of it," said Mayor Mahr.

The meeting closed as council went into executive session to discuss matters of litigation.

MS Council Discusses Road Repairs On Wyoming Drive

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written For The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Representatives of Selario Construction LLC., which is constructing a single-family home at the southwest corner of Wyoming Drive and Cherry Hill Road, appeared at the February 4 work sessions of the Mountainside Borough Council meeting to discuss options for remedying the damage caused by Elizabethtown Gas Company's violation of the borough's Road Opening Ordinance at the residence, which is located at 1151 Wyoming Drive. The ordinance prohibits road openings for five years after repaving a road.

Michael Disko, the borough engineer, provided a detailed report on his investigation of the incident and his recommendations to resolve the issue. According to Mr. Disko, the road opening permit application mistakenly indicated that the excavation would be on Raccoon Hollow, which intersects the area. The gas company determines the opening lo-

cations based on its records of main locations. The inaccurate listing of Raccoon Hollow on the road opening permit application and the location map was the result of an error by Elizabethtown Gas staff and not Selario LLC.

The council agreed with the borough engineer's recommendation that Selario, LLC. mill and repave Cherry Hill Road from the recent paving limit of Wyoming Drive to past the gas opening. This will represent a curb-to-curb restoration. To insure that the work is done properly, the company will be required to provide a \$15,000 escrow to the borough for the resurfacing work, which will be performed by the borough.

In other business, the council approved a \$300 donation to the Governor Livingston High School Project Graduation and agreed to issue proclamations to honor Edward Verlangieri's 100th Birthday Celebration and Youth Art Month. The council's next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18.

SP-F BOE

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multiple sources for the same topic, comparing and contrasting sources and developing the ability to use evidence in support of a position or opinion.

It was noted by both Ms. Baxter and Ms. Mullman that in the second grade, key assignments include the comparison and contrast of important points presented by two different sources on the same topic. This was illustrated in their slide show by using Material World posters, literature and e-books from the Peace Corps website to understand "Cultural Universals."

Finally, it was noted that in fifth grade, while engaging in a study of European explorers, multiple reading sources are used including the usual non-fiction sources but also novels based on historical facts. The students also are introduced to a textbook entitled "The Log of Christopher Columbus, A Young People's History of the U.S."

To conclude, it was noted that ongoing tasks for the younger grades include providing additional varied, developmentally appropriate resources in content areas, continuing to explore ways of integrating social studies content standards with the literacy standards, and supporting the students' development of background knowledge and academic vocabulary.

In other business, a resolution was read proclaiming February 2014 as "Black History Awareness Month," an annual observance every February. The resolution states that the district recognizes the extensive civil, social and religious contributions made by African-Americans, including residents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The board of education officially adopted the 2014-2015 school calendar, with 182 student days and 186 teacher days. The calendar, which starts for students on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, ends on Thursday, June 18, 2015. It was noted that the calendar has three emergency days built into it.

According to the newly adopted calendar notes, if no emergency days

are needed, schools will be closed for the day on May 22, 2015. On the other hand, if more days are needed, they will be taken from the April 3-10, 2015 spring break, working back from April 10 and moving on. This calendar was first approved on January 23.

The next board of education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building on Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains.

Glover

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venture with Fanwood, upgraded the township's website and utilized social media.

"The bottom line is that we've got all these wonderful vehicles to talk to our community on but it requires someone to take the bull by the horns and to be able to monitor those outlets, make certain that they are current and newsworthy of what is going on in the community," the mayor said, noting the township needs to "centralize the responsibility for the flow of information out to the community."

The mayor also said he is "hell-bent on trying to bring business to our downtown." He said he feels the township needs to "drive (foot) traffic into the downtown." He said Scotch Plains needs more family-oriented events staged in the downtown like an art show, a craft show and an automobile show.

"It's really a foot traffic thing. The municipality has to be willing to invest in that," he said.

As part of the Shackamaxon development, the township will receive \$100,000 in two installments to be used for downtown improvements. "Fifty thousand of that money is in the house right now and I would like to use that money to invest in the kind of activity that I just outlined...And I think we need to start and plan now and have this thing launched by the spring," said Mayor Glover.



GETTING THAT MAGIC NUMBER... Blue Devil junior Lillian Scott, with basketball, is surrounded by her teammates after scoring her 1,000th point with 2:08 left in the second quarter in the game against Rahway in Westfield on February 4. The Blue Devil Lady cagers defeated Rahway, 60-20. See story next week.

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MEADOWLAND ARGOT... Bill Sanders of Bernardsville, formerly of Mountainside, was the welcoming announcer for the NFL at the Verizon Pavillion at Super Bowl 48.